

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of detecting the presence of one or more specific anti-Major Histo-Compatibility Complex (MHC) antibodies in a sample comprising contacting said sample with one or more recombinant MHC molecules ~~or functionally equivalent recombinant variants, derivatives or fragments thereof~~ which each bind to a specific MHC antibody, if present in said sample, and detecting the binding or absence of binding of said antibodies to said recombinant MHC molecules, ~~variants, derivatives or fragments thereof.~~

2. (Currently amended) A method of detecting the presence of one or more specific anti-Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) antibodies in a sample comprising contacting said sample with one or more recombinant HLA molecules which each bind a specific HLA antibody, if present in said sample, ~~or functionally equivalent variants, derivatives or fragments thereof~~ and detecting the binding or absence of binding of said antibodies to said recombinant HLA molecules, ~~variants, derivatives or fragments thereof.~~

3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein said MHC or HLA molecule is a Class I MHC or HLA molecule.

4. (Previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said recombinant MHC or HLA molecule comprises a heavy chain and wherein the heavy chain of said MHC or HLA molecule is recombinant.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the antibodies which are detected are IgG, IgM or IgA.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein said recombinant MHC or HLA molecule comprises a heavy chain, β_2 -microglobulin and peptide ~~or functionally equivalent variant, derivative or fragment thereof.~~

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said peptide is derived from HIV, HCV or an influenza virus.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the MHC molecules are attached to a solid support.

10. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the HLA molecules are attached to a solid support.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said solid support is a spherical bead.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said solid support is a nitrocellulose strip.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said solid support is an ELISA plate.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the recombinant MHC is synthesized in a prokaryotic expression system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the recombinant HLA is synthesized in a prokaryotic expression system.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the sample is a body fluid sample.

17. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the bound antibody is detected by an immunosorbent assay using an antibody conjugated to a signaling means.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A kit comprising at least the following components:

(a) one or more recombinant MHC molecules ~~or functionally equivalent recombinant variants, derivatives or fragments thereof; and~~ and

(b) a means for detecting anti-MHC antibodies.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) A kit as claimed in claim 20 which further comprises a solid support together with means for attachment of the MHC molecules.

23. (Previously presented) A kit as claimed in claim 20 wherein the means for detecting said anti-MHC antibodies comprises an antibody which binds to the complex formed between said MHC molecules and naturally occurring antibodies to said molecules.

24. (Previously presented) A kit as claimed in claim 22, wherein said solid support is a spherical bead.

25. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein said recombinant MHC or HLA molecule is in the form of a fusion protein.

26. (New) A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said recombinant MHC or HLA molecule is fused to a means of immobilization.

27. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein said means of immobilization is biotin.

28. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said recombinant MHC or HLA molecule carries a label or signalling means for detection.